



## THE BURDEN OF THE GRAVE (Psalm 23:4)

Introduction: *Come with me to summer in ancient Palestine, it's the day to take the sheep to the high country...*

- I. TO GET TO THE 'HIGH COUNTRY', IT'S NECESSARY TO PASS THROUGH THE VALLEY
  - A. As a shepherd, David knew this (Psalm 23:4)
  - B. The LORD, our Shepherd will take us to His heavenly mountain by way of the valley of death (v. 4)
  - C. "...*the valley of the shadow of death*" (Ps. 23:4) is known to most people & treasured by many
  
- II. WHY IS THIS *THROUGH THE VALLEY* VERSE SO KNOWN & TREASURED?
  - A. We all have to face death (Hebrews 9:27; Genesis 3:19; Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ecclesiastes 7:2; Psalm 90:12)
  - B. We do not need to face death alone
    1. David's Psalm 23:4 changes "in mid stream" from a poem to a prayer
    2. David declares: "Don't face death without facing God."
  
- III. ANOTHER BETHLEHEM SHEPHERD HAD A LOT TO SAY & DO ABOUT THIS *VALLEY*
  - A. Jesus the Shepherd laid down His life for His sheep (John 10:11)
  - B. Jesus the Shepherd defeated *the valley of death* has prepared a place for you in heaven's high country (John 14:2-3)
  - C. He himself will lead you through the *valley* (John 14:2-3; Psalm 23:4)

Conclusion: *The wartime military chaplain & Psalm 23:4*